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Regenerative and Cellular Sciences

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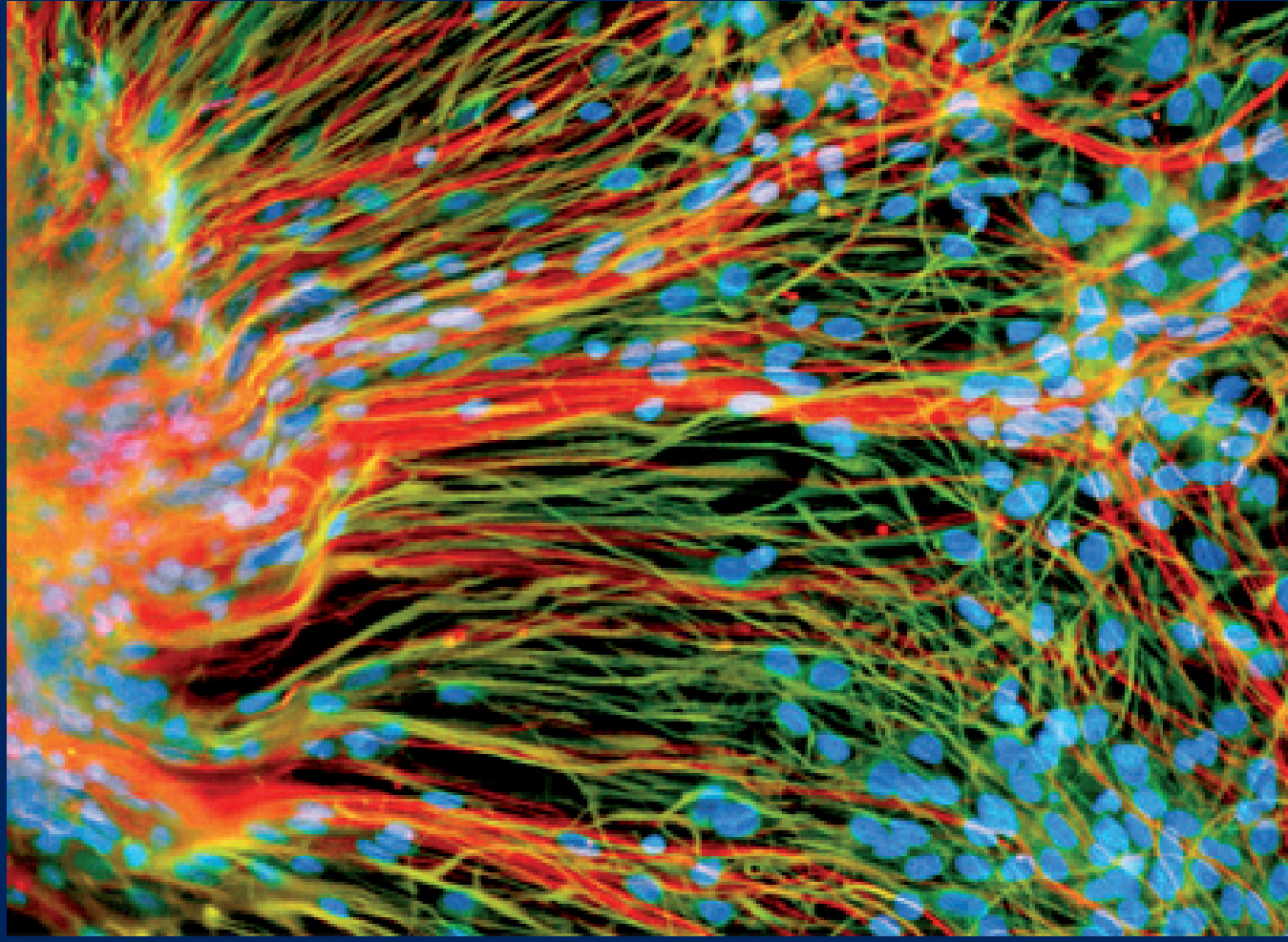
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Regenerative & Cellular Sciences

An Interactive Workshop

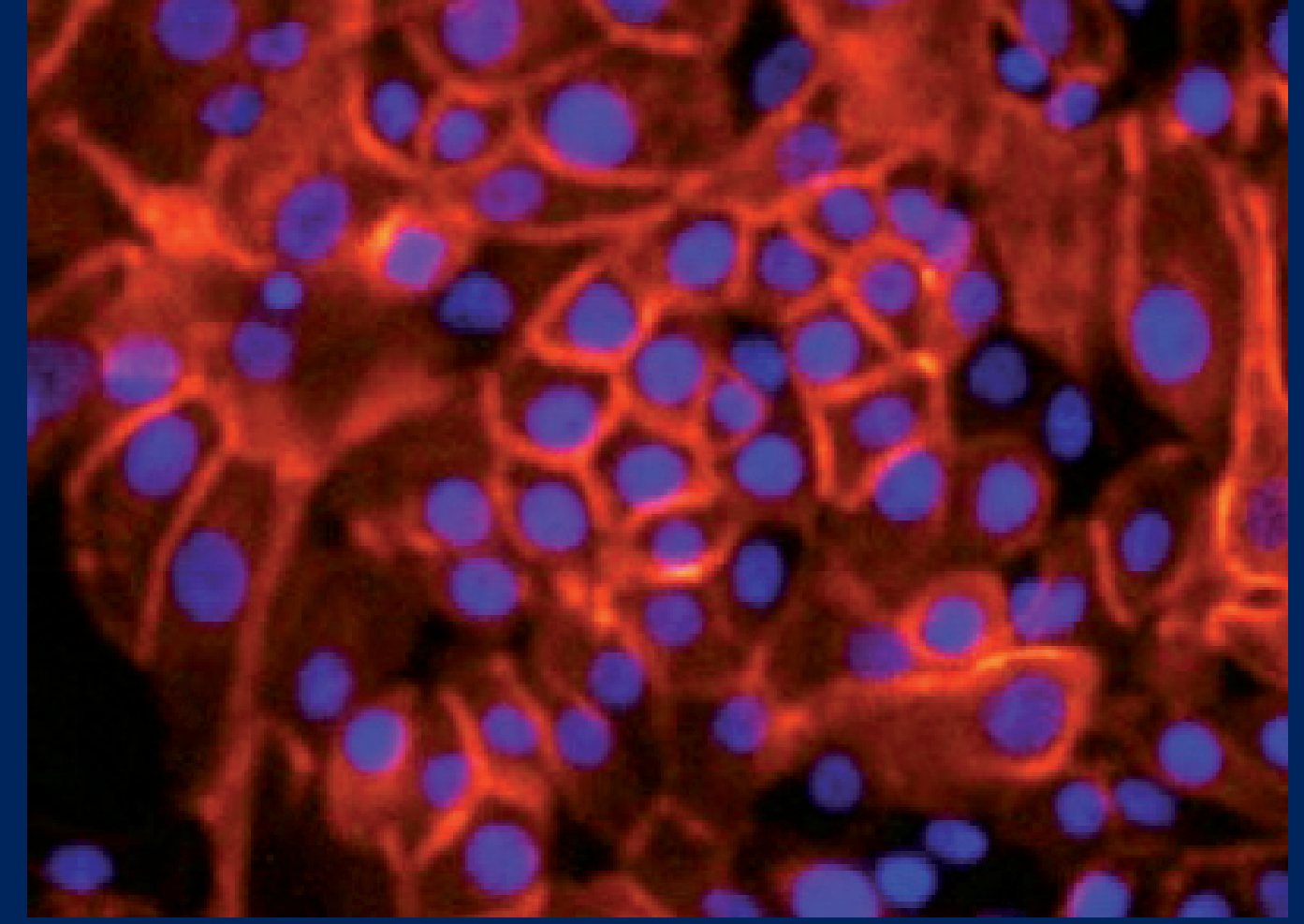
ADULT STEM CELLS: ETHICS & ISSUES



Source: A. Leonard

ETHICAL ISSUES

- Donor Consent (for extraction)
- Ethical Review of Research Protocol
- Patient Consent (for transplantation)
- Clinical Efficacy
- Clinical Safety



Source: T. Winslow

ISSUES & OPINIONS

Consent

Many consider the use of adult stem cells to be less ethically troublesome than other sources of stem cells insofar as taking consent from a competent donor is straightforward and most patients would have no difficulty about receiving adult stem cell derived therapies.

'... [A]s an adult you have the right ... over your own body, so if it is your stem cells, you are giving consent on behalf of yourself rather than on behalf of an unborn embryo [UK Research Nurse]

'You may be pragmatic, but scientists ... have to be contemplative. You cannot use cells from people without telling them what are you going to do with them. You still have to [get him] to sign ... what he wants [you] to do with it.' [Argentine Researcher]

Hype

There is increasing concern that preliminary results from new adult stem cell research are being hyped so as to displace embryonic stem cell research, and that there might be more money made available for adult stem cell projects than there are good projects to justify such investments, particularly in jurisdictions where embryonic stem cell research is controversial, which could lead to low-quality research being funded and published.

'... [S]cientists working on an adult stem cell type ... maybe have some interesting preliminary results. The problem comes [when] that is then jumped upon quite often by ... interest groups ... who try and capitalise on that and use that as an argument against embryonic stem cell research. [UK Researcher]

'In terms of promises, I always try to be very careful, especially when talking to the media, ... about the promises and real prospects of stem cell research. Because this positive feedback ... between different members of society could really get into a very high scale [of] hype on the subject.' [UK Researcher]

'... [T]here is a lot of things that we have to understand from stem cells ... and we are far from the clinic. And if some kind of work that is ... not very clear [is given to] desperate patients with terrible diseases; this is a delinquent approach. ... So I think that the translation from basic to clinic has to be a very regulated' [Argentine Researcher]

Forgotten Stem Cells

Some researchers are concerned that adult stem cells are inappropriately overshadowed and that some members of the public may not be aware of stem cells beyond embryonic stem cells.

'I think that we are a little bit like poor relations compared to the embryonic people. ... [T]he whole variety of things that can be done with [adult stem cells] are really not so much in the public domain. Possibly because they are more controversial, embryonic stem cells ... are much more out there ... [and] to some extent, because of that, [they] attract more money.' [UK Adult Stem Cell Researcher]

LEGAL SETTING

Argentine Institutions

Ministry of Health
INCUCAI
ANMAT

Argentine Instruments

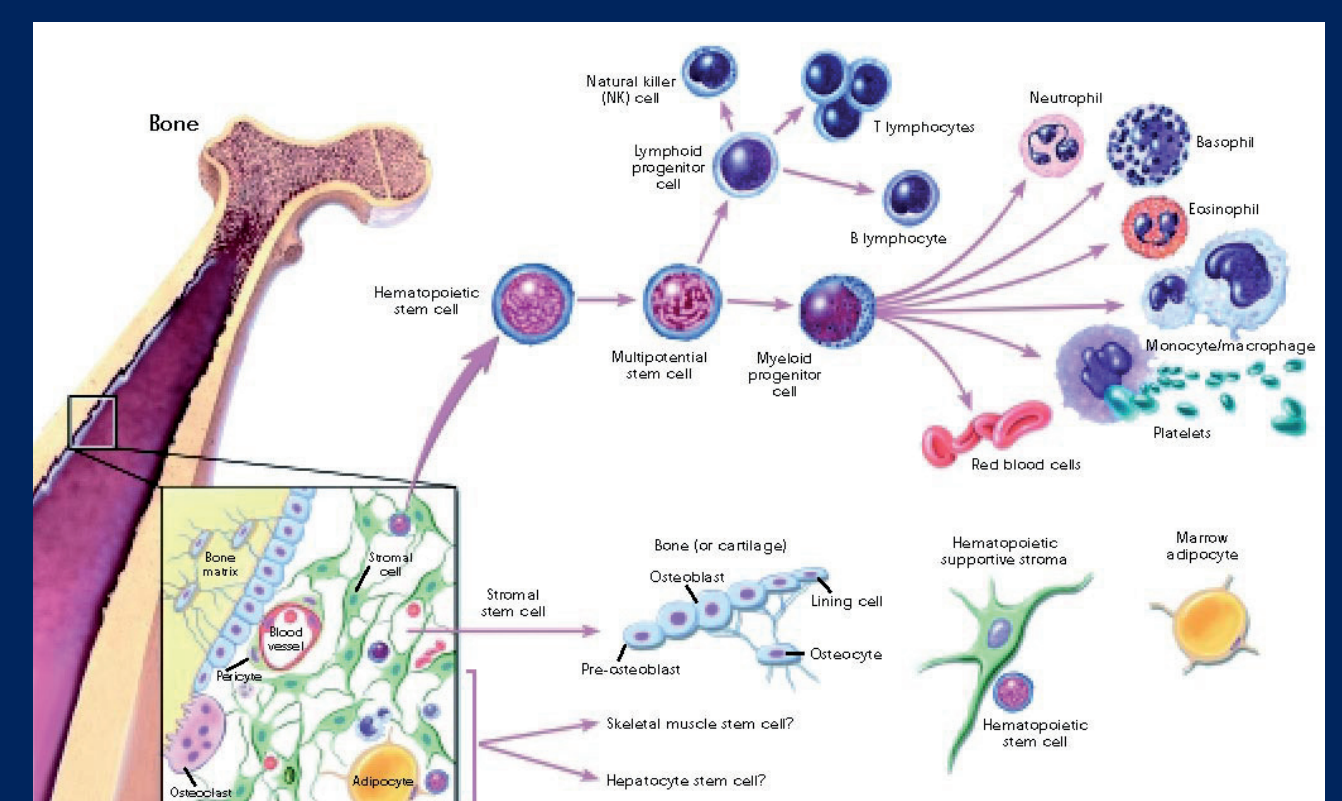
Organs & Tissue Transplantation Act 2007, No. 24.193
INCUCUAI & Stem Cell Transplantation, Ministerial Resolution 610/2007
Good Clinical Practice for Clinical Research with Human Beings, Ministerial Resolution 1490/2007
General Guidelines for Conduct of Clinical Trials, Provision 5330, 1997

UK Institutions

Human Tissue Authority
Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
NHS R&D Office
Home Office (if animal trials)
Medical Research Council
Research Ethics Committees

UK Instruments

Human Tissue Act 2004
Medicines & Medical Devices Regulations 2003
Good Research Practice Guidelines (2000)
Good Clinical Practice in Clinical Trials (1998)



Source: MIT